

LB 899. No objections heard, so ordered. We will pass over LB 899. That will include 899A also then. LB 992, Mr. Clerk, we have a request to pass over that one.

CLERK: Yes, sir, there is a request to pass over 992A as well.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, we'll move to LB 1129, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1129, I do have a motion. Senator Pappas, you wanted to withdraw yours. Then, Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to return LB 1129 for purposes of striking the enacting clause.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I move to return LB 1129 to strike the enacting clause. This bill as amended is the retirement bill for state senators. Of course you wouldn't recognize it by the title that it's referring to on the green sheet, however, I noticed that the blue bill that we have in front of us does say that it's a retirement bill for us state senators. I feel what we're doing here, we're circumventing our Constitution. Our Constitution says, "Members of the Legislature shall receive no pay or perquisites other than said salary and expenses." And I feel that this bill goes against our Constitution. When we look up the word perquisite, up in the dictionary it says something received in addition to regular pay or profit resulting from one's position or employment. If retirement pay isn't something received in addition, something that is extra, then I guess I'm all wrong. If this body thinks or wants a retirement plan, I think we should do it up front and let me say this. I'm not against a retirement plan for senators, but I think we should do it in a proper way and the proper way would be to introduce a constitutional amendment, hold a public hearing, then bring it up to the floor for debate and, if we get 30 votes or 40 votes, then we'll put it up to a vote of the people. But I think that's the proper way. Let the citizens in Nebraska vote for it. The way we're doing this is not right. It's wrong. It's just as wrong as it can be and I think that we'll lose a lot of credibility in this body by passing this. The bill is unconstitutional. I just hope that the Governor has enough guts to veto it and if he doesn't and it becomes law, then we're putting a lot of pressure, like I said the other day, we're putting a lot of pressure on the State Supreme Court because we set the salaries of the Supreme Court justices and we also set